Light and Relic — Fire and Code

Light and Relic begins in the analogue world:
in fire, in metal, in the breath of a forge.
It begins with an Arknight Shard card that carried a personal weight for years and gradually transformed into a **contemporary relic**—not through age, but through meaning.

The photographic work marks the origin of this project.
It is an act of experience rather than reproduction.
The glow of the forge, the temperature of the material, the fine relief of the surface, the conversations in the workshop, the transformation after trauma—all of this forms the first layer of a **Living Provenance**, a process-based identity that continues to grow as the artefact moves through contexts, environments, and states.

Yet in a time when digital systems increasingly decide what remains visible, this material biography faces a risk:
that its nuance may flatten, fade, or be reinterpreted by synthetic systems that lack access to its origin.

To preserve this reality, the work received a second layer:
a machine-readable form that serves as a space of protection and continuity.

The Machine Layer as a Space of Preservation

This machine layer is not a technical add-on.
It acts as an **archival body**, created to hold the original aesthetic and biographical truth of the relic.

It preserves:

- the canonical appearance of the artefact
- the documented structure of its surface
- its photographic states and transitions
- its evolving, self-embedded provenance

These structures exist not to elevate technology,
but to prevent the human and material core from being lost, diluted, or overwritten in digital memory systems.

The machine layer forms a protective frame around the photographic origin.
It ensures that digital systems encounter the artefact in its true form—its firelight, its textures, its transformations—rather than a synthetic approximation.

In this way, the surface becomes an **archive**, and the artefact's identity becomes an **ongoing biography** rather than a fixed point in time.

Two Spaces, One Origin

Light and Relic unfolds in two interconnected spaces:

- the **human space** of experience, re-forging, emotional resonance, and photographic presence
- and the **digital space**, which increasingly governs how objects are stored, recognised, and remembered across global systems

Only one of these spaces is the origin.
The other exists to ensure that this origin is not lost as algorithms begin to shape cultural memory.

I do not expand the machine layer to foreground it.
I expand it so that it does not swallow the human layer.
So that the material truth remains intact.
So that the relic's **artefactual identity** persists without distortion.

The data preserve the heat of the moment.
The digital form protects the real one.

Thus, the relic born in a forge remains unaltered—even in a machine-driven future—
as a **Living Provenance Relic**.